

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A catalyst for the hydrogenation of aromatic compounds to give the corresponding alicyclic compounds, which comprises at least one metal of the eighth transition group of the periodic table of the elements on or in a support material, wherein the support material has an average pore diameter of from 25 to 50 nm and a specific surface area greater than 30 m²/g.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein over 90% of the total pore volume of the support materials is ~~made up by~~ comprised of meso- and micropores with a diameter of from 0.1 to 50 nm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the support material comprises activated carbon, silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, aluminosilicate, titanium dioxide, zirconium dioxide, magnesium oxide, ~~and/or~~ zinc oxide, or ~~a mixture of these~~ mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The catalyst as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, which ~~also~~ further comprises at least one metal of the first transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The catalyst as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which ~~also~~ further comprises at least one metal of the seventh transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process for the catalytic hydrogenation of an aromatic compounds compound with one or more hydrogen-containing gases on a catalyst which comprises at least one metal of the eighth transition group of the periodic table of the elements on or in a support material, ~~which comprises using a method where~~

wherein the support material has an average pore diameter of from 25 to 50 nm and a specific surface area greater than 30 m²/g, ~~and where~~

the aromatic compounds ~~used~~ comprise aromatic monocarboxylic acids or their alkyl esters or aromatic polycarboxylic acids or their anhydrides, half esters, or full esters, and ~~where these~~

said aromatic compounds are reacted to give the corresponding alicyclic poly- and/or monocarboxylic acid compounds.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein over 90% of the total pore volume of the support materials is ~~made up by~~ comprised of meso- and micropores with a diameter of from 0.1 to 50 nm.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the support material comprises activated carbon, silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, aluminosilicate, titanium dioxide, zirconium dioxide, magnesium oxide, ~~and/or~~ zinc oxide, or ~~a mixture of these~~ mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, which ~~also~~ further comprises at least one metal of the first transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, which ~~also~~ further comprises at least one metal of the seventh transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 6, wherein the aromatic compound ~~used~~ comprises benzene-, diphenyl-, naphthalene-, diphenyl oxide-, or anthracenecarboxylic acid, ~~their~~ corresponding anhydrides, and/or corresponding esters.

Claim 12 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the alcohol components of the esters of the organic compounds are in each case identical or different and are alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, and/or alkyl groups having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched.

Claim 13 (New): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aromatic compound comprises benzene-, diphenyl-, naphthalene-, diphenyl oxide-, or anthracenecarboxylic acid, corresponding anhydrides, and/or corresponding esters.